CLAIMS

- 1. A stent, in particular a coronary stent, having a coating (6, 18), characterised in that the coating (6, 18) is of an irregular nature.
- 2. A stent as set forth in claim 1 wherein the coating (6, 18) is irregular in respect of its thickness.
- 3. A stent as set forth in claim 2 wherein the coating (6, 18) is completely missing at at least one location on the surface (4) of the stent.
- 4. A stent as set forth in claim 3 wherein the coating (6, 18) is interrupted in a grid-like pattern.
- 5. A stent as set forth in one of the preceding claims wherein the coating (6, 18) is provided in the form of coating islands (18) on the surface of the stent.
- 6. A stent as set forth in claim 5 wherein the coating islands (18) are of a substantially round configuration.
- 7. A stent as set forth in one of claims 5 and 6 wherein the coating islands (18) are all of substantially the same size.
- 8. A stent as set forth in one of claims 5 through 7 wherein the coating islands (18) in regions (12, 14, 16) involving a greater degree of local stretching of the stent surface (4) upon stretching of the stent are arranged at a greater mutual spacing than in regions (8, 10) involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface (4).
- 9. A stent as set forth in one of claims 5, 6 and 8 wherein the coating islands (18) in regions (12, 14, 16) involving a greater degree of local

stretching of the stent surface (4) are smaller than in regions (8, 10) involving a lesser degree of local stretching of the stent surface (4).

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- 10. A stent as set forth in claim 9 wherein the mutual spacings of the coating islands (18) are substantially the same everywhere.
- 11. A stent as set forth in one of the preceding claims wherein the coating (6, 18) comprises biocompatible material.
- 12. A stent as set forth in one of the preceding claims wherein the coating contains amorphous silicon carbide (a-SiC), hydrogenated amorphous silicon carbide (a-SiC:H) and/or gold.

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